CLAIMS

1. A process for the separation of components from a solution comprising HCl and palladium (Pd) in admixture with other platinum group and/or base metals, the process comprising the steps of passing said solution over a hydrophilic medium comprising thioether ligands bound to a solid cross-linked organic polymer matrix and separating the Pd from the other platinum group and/or base metals by retaining the Pd on the medium and eluting the other platinum group and/or base metals.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the solution comprises Pd in admixture with two or more other platinum group and/or base metals comprising chromatographically separating the two or more other platinum group and/or base metals.

3. A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the retained Pd is recovered by elution with ammonia or a nitrogen-containing eluant.

4. A process according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the thioether ligands comprise monothioether ligands.

5. A process according to claim 1, 2, 3, or 4, wherein the polymer comprises methacrylate moieties, styrene moieties, poly(ethylene glycol) moieties or any combination or mixture thereof.

6. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein the ligands are bound to the polymer matrix through a branched or unbranched alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, ether or ester group or combination thereof, optionally substituted, especially by hydroxyl.

7. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein the sulphur atom of the thioether group is substituted by an alkyl group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, optionally substituted, especially by hydroxyl.

8. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein the medium is in the form of a gel or a porous solid.

9. A process according to any preceding claim wherein the medium forms part of a composite chromatographic medium, the composite comprising a porous support, the pores of which contain the medium.